

OPA Daily Digest for 8/11/14

Region 7 Outreach/Event Schedule

* New additions noted with an asterisk

Administrator/Regional Administrator

8/13/14 – Iowa Association of Business & Industry (Clean Power Plan), Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

8/14/14 - Agricultural Outreach, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

9/3/14 – Office of Water Visit to Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

9/10/14 - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/10/14 – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

9/14-17/14 – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho,

Deputy Regional Administrator:

8/20/14 – Tribal Consultation Training, Regional Office. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

8/12-13/14 – Missouri Department of Natural Resources Underground Injection Control Program Meeting, Rolla, Mo. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

8/18-21/14 – Purdue Pesticide Program Certification and Training Workshop, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact: Douglas Jones, 7592

8/19/14 – Missouri Safe Drinking Water Commission Meeting, Joplin, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

8/20/14 – Water Quality Standards Triennial Review with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: John Reyna, 7021

8/26-28/14 – Kansas Water Environment Association/Kansas Section, American Water Works Association Joint Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Wayne Dillard, 7885

9/8-11/14 – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

9/9/14 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Lee Terry (Neb.) – Letter – 8/4/14: NPDES permitting of water treatment plant lime residuals along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Due: 8/18/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa) – Letter – 7/24/14: Abandoned school site contaminated with asbestos in Letts, Iowa. Due: 7/24/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Sen. Gary Romine, Sen. Doug Libla, Sen. Gina Walsh, Rep. Paul Wieland, Rep. Paul Fitzwater, Rep. TJ McKenna – Letter – 7/25/14: Express concerns about characterization of many areas of Missouri as “contaminated.” Due: 8/7/14. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Greenwire – Tiffany Stecker – 8/1/14: Requesting interview with RA for profile piece about EPA's relationship with agriculture community. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Inside EPA – Lee Logan – 8/8/14: Inquired about RA's speech at the Greenhouse Gas Strategy Forum on Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Brownfield Ag Network – Julia Harker – 8/11/14: Secured interview for the regional administrator during a trip to the Missouri State Fair, Aug. 14. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

KMZU Radio, Carrollton, Mo. – Kristie Cross – 8/11/14: Secured interview for the regional administrator during a trip to the Missouri State Fair, Aug. 14. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

KMOS-TV, Warrensburg, Mo. – Kyle Vickers - 8/11/14: Secured interview for the regional administrator during a trip to the Missouri State Fair, Aug. 14. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Settlement of Clean Water Act Violations Aims to Prevent Future Oil Spills by Cargill Inc. – 8/11/14
– Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

Example: **Time-Critical Removal Action, Chemco Industries, Inc., Superfund Site, Topeka, Kansas** - 2/8/08 - Contact: Belinda Young, 7463

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Plans not complete for delayed barrier between burning and radioactive Bridgeton Landfills - 8/8/14 - Design plans for a barrier to block an underground fire at the Bridgeton Landfill from radioactive materials in the adjacent West Lake Landfill are still not finished, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/plans-not-complete-for-delayed-barrier-between-burning-and-radioactive/article_4a4ba915-4e5b-5980-9e1a-7d0448fe2120.html

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – EPA Puts Six-Month Delay on Firebreak Trench Project – 8/9/14 – It was supposed to start this summer, but now the Environmental Protection Agency says it will be six months or more before it begins digging a firebreak trench to separate the burning Bridgeton landfill from nearby nuclear waste. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/08/08/epa-puts-six-month-delay-on-firebreak-trench-project/>

Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune – EPA wallows in corruption – 8/9/14 - The lofty motto of the Environmental Protection Agency is “protecting people and the environment.” In practice, however, EPA bureaucrats faithfully protect their own people and preserve the government's cesspool of manipulation, cover-ups and cronyism. http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/columnists/epa-wallows-in-corruption/article_c4cfad00-e8a0-577b-aa44-6e4bb83aa54a.html

Kansas City Star – (blog) Blunt to focus on Obama in Missouri swing – 8/10/14 - Republican Sen. Roy Blunt plans a nine-stop tour through Missouri this week in which he'll talk often about his belief that President Barack Obama has overreached his authority. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article1188215.html>

Southeast Missourian – Ozark Border members told electric rates could rise 50 percent – 8/11/14 - With looming emissions standards proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the outlook is discouraging for Missouri's electric cooperative customers, said David Klindt, vice president of the Association of Missouri Rural Electric Cooperatives, during an Ozark Border annual meeting last week. <http://www.semissourian.com/story/2108380.html>

Boone County Journal – Ashland says ‘yes’ to sewer bond – 8/8/14 - Ashland City Administrator Josh Hawkins interrupted his City Manager's report on Tuesday evening during the Board of Aldermen meeting to tell the Aldermen that his schedule for Wednesday morning had changed.

<http://www.bocojo.com/articles/2014/08/08/news/doc53e2428f09144078638381.txt>

Oskaloosa (Iowa) Herald – Oskaloosa receives \$400,000 EPA grant – 8/10/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the city of Oskaloosa a \$400,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant to help eliminate waste and hazardous materials. <http://www.oskaloosa.com/local/x1927918296/Oskaloosa-receives-400-000-EPA-grant>

Inside EPA - Advocates Urge EPA Use Of Novel TSCA Authority To Ban Some TCE Uses – 8/8/14 - Environmentalists and process safety advocates are urging EPA to use existing authority under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to ban certain uses of the solvent trichloroethylene (TCE), arguing exposures pose health risks, that safer alternatives are available, and that EPA has waited decades to use TSCA authority to restrict chemical uses that pose unreasonable risks.

<http://insideepa.com/201408082478997/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/advocates-urge-epa-use-of-novel-tsca-authority-to-ban-some-tce-uses/menu-id-95.html?s=dn>

Inside EPA - NAS Formaldehyde Report Could Bolster Stringent EPA Risk Analysis – 8/8/14 - The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in a new report is backing conclusions by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) that formaldehyde is a human carcinogen, bolstering EPA efforts to advance its stalled assessment that could drive strict new rules for energy drilling, natural gas turbines and other emissions sources. <http://insideepa.com/201408082478924/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/nas-formaldehyde-report-could-bolster-stringent-epa-risk-analysis/menu-id-95.html?s=dn>

Inside EPA - Industry Seeks To Minimize 4th Circuit's CWA Permit 'Shield' Ruling – 8/8/14 - Industry is pressing three appeals courts to limit the impact of a recent decision narrowing the "shield" that protects holders of Clean Water Act (CWA) permits from liability for their discharges, urging two courts to disregard the ruling as they consider still-pending suits over the shield and seeking *en banc* reversal of the decision itself. <http://insideepa.com/201408082478917/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/industry-seeks-to-minimize-4th-circuits-cwa-permit-shield-ruling/menu-id-95.html?s=dn>

Inside EPA Clean Energy Report - Western States Weigh Narrow Multi-State Pacts To Comply With EPA's ESPS – 8/8/14 - Several Western state officials say they are open to creating bilateral or regional agreements to help comply with EPA's landmark greenhouse gas (GHG) rule for existing power plants, with talks focused on narrow "shared accounting" of efficiency and renewable programs instead of a broad GHG trading program that many political leaders oppose. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201408082478912/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/western-states-weigh-narrow-multi-state-pacts-to-comply-with-epas-esps/menu-id-202.html?s=dn>

Inside EPA – Climate 'Trust' Plaintiffs To Seek Supreme Court Review – 8/8/14 - Youth plaintiffs plan to seek Supreme Court review of their novel litigation claiming the government has a public "trust" duty to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, following a unanimous U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit panel decision to dismiss the case after finding it lacked jurisdiction to hear the claim. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201408082478995/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Clean-Energy-Wire/climate-trust-plaintiffs-to-seek-supreme-court-review/menu-id-204.html?s=dn>

Federal Regulations Adviser - Monday Morning Regulatory Review – 8/11/14: EPA Power Plant Litigation; NLRB Ratifies Administrative Actions; FCC Open Internet / Fast Lane Comments & Attorney General Habeas Corpus Certifications – 8/11/14 - The dog days of summer mean that this column is filled with many odds and few ends. In new litigation, a dozen states sued the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claiming that the agency lacks authority to issue a rule that it has not yet been issued. <http://www.fedregsadvisor.com/2014/08/11/monday-morning-regulatory-review-81114-epa-power-plant-litigation-nlr-ratifies-administrative-actions-fcc-open-internet-fast-lane-comments-attorney-general-habeas-corpus-certifica/>

Newszap.com – EPA, landowners at odds over wetlands interpretation – 8/9/14 - When is a ditch just a ditch? And when is a plot of woodland without a drop of visible water actually a “water of the U.S.”? <http://delaware.newszap.com/centraldelaware/134162-70/epa-landowners-at-odds-over-wetland-interpretation>

Hutchinson (Kan.) Daily News – Pretty Prairie hires attorney over water issue – 8/8/14 - The Pretty Prairie City Council hired an attorney to seek more time from environmental regulatory agencies for addressing high nitrates in the drinking water. At the same, the council on Monday continued planning for a potential ion exchange water treatment system that could cost more than \$2 million. http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local_state_news/pretty-prairie-hires-attorney-over-water-issue/article_374dcc40-3058-5900-9fdc-4a0317b523e2.html

Salina (Kan.) Post – Kan. Community tries to tackle water issues – 8/8/14 - A south-central Kansas community where nitrate levels in the water supply have long exceeded federal standards is working to address the contamination. The Pretty Prairie City Council has hired an attorney in order to gain more time from environmental regulatory agencies to address the high nitrate levels in the drinking water. <http://salinapost.com/2014/08/09/kan-community-tries-to-tackle-water-issues/>

Huffington Post – Climate Change This Week: Mega Methane, Tidal Power, and More – 8/11/14 - Today, the Earth got a little hotter, and a little more crowded. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mary-ellen-harte/climate-change-this-week_b_5667183.html

Des Moines Register – Cargill agrees to pay \$187.5K fine for no emergency spill plan – 8/11/14 - Cargill Inc. has agreed to pay a \$187,500 fine to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, settling allegations it failed to have response plans in place in the event of large-scale spill at oil storage facilities in Blair, Neb., and Eddyville, Ia. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/green-fields/2014/08/11/cargill-agrees-to-pay-epa-fine/13904825/>

Des Moines Register – We can't let agriculture destroy our environment – 8/11/14 - Are we prepared to sit back and leave our quality of life, our natural resources and our health up to the goodwill of Iowa's agricultural producers? <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/rekha-basu/2014/08/09/agriculture-destroy-environment/13849183/>

Sikeston (Mo.) Standard Democrat – Placing grass clippings in city's street is not legal – 8/11/14 - City residents who blow grass clippings into the street on purpose will soon get a friendly reminder: Please don't. <http://www.standard-democrat.com/story/2108428.html>

KMUW Public Radio, Wichita – Thousands of Dead Fish Showing Up In Veterans Memorial Lake – 8/11/14 - Officials are investigating a large fish kill at a Great Bend lake. Thousands of dead fish have been reported at Veterans Memorial Lake. <http://kmuw.org/post/thousands-dead-fish-showing-veterans-memorial-lake>

New Scientist – Surprise! Keystone XL will make climate change worse – 8/11/14 - Try not to faint from shock. The controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry Canadian oil through the US, will make climate change worse. It will boost global emissions of carbon dioxide by up to 110 million tonnes per year. The finding will step up the pressure on US president Barack Obama to stop the pipeline being built. <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn26031-surprise-keystone-xl-will-make-climate-change-worse.html>

Grist – 5 Things I Learned From DOJ's Elder Statesman on Environmental Justice – 8/11/14 - So, I'm sitting in the cafe in Politics & Prose preparing to blog on this video that the Environmental Protection Agency just posted on its YouTube page when I hit a snag. I want to quote one of the talking heads featured in the video, an attorney for the Department of Justice who's identified as “Quintin Pair.” <http://grist.org/climate-energy/5-things-i-learned-from-dojs-grand-poo-bah-on-environmental-justice/>

The Hill – Greens sue to force EPA Superfund rule – 8/11/14 - A coalition of environmental groups sued the Environmental Protection Agency to force it to mandate financial responsibility requirements for certain polluting industries. The rule was required under a 1980 law that established the Superfund program to oversee cleanup of contaminated sites. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214852-greens-sue-to-force-epa-superfund-rule>

Forbes – Environmentalists' Worst Enemy May Be Their Own Policies – 8/11/14 - You don't need a poll to know that Americans want a clean environment. Nor should you need one that shows we want the beneficial effects of environmental regulation to outweigh the economic costs. These are both common sense positions—yet the latter is too often ignored by the policymakers pushing environmental policies. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2014/08/11/environmentalists-worst-enemy-may-be-their-own-policies/>

Allvoices.com – Coal states make another attempt to bully courts into gutting EPA regulations – 8/10/14 - In yet another attempt by coal-dominated states and unions to cripple new regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency, 12 states filed a petition last week asking the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to rule EPA's new carbon emission regulations for coal-powered plants be overturned. <http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/17634245-coal-states-make-another-attempt-to-bully-courts-into-gutting-epa-regulations>
